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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

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15 MAY 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Research)
SUBJECT : Meeting with OXCART Contractors

1. The results of your recent meeting with Kelly Johnson concerning foreign object damage to engines has had a tremendous impact on Lockheed and the Lockheed personnel. Whether or not the additional procedures and care can prevent all future FOD remains to be seen, if nothing else, however, as a result of the confrontation, Lockheed has been stimulated to solve this problem. The apparent lethargy which had crept into Lockheed's work habits and the resultant poor management and careless procedures in truth only reflect a general trend in the OXCART Program which I am fearful is not limited to Lockheed alone.
2. I suspect that a temperature reading at the moment among our contractors would reveal little concern in their failure to meet schedules or to remain within their contract obligations. The OXCART Program, it would appear, must share its place with the "business as usual" approach. I agree that a direct parallel cannot be drawn between the results of the FOD meeting and another meeting concerned with the many pacing items now inhibiting the progression of the OXCART Program. I do feel, however, that there is a certain amount of application.
3. Although John Parengsay has repeatedly prodded and prompted the contractors, the OXCART Program in its present state does not enjoy the thrust and vitality that it once did. Even in our own shop, OXCART must take its place with the many other of our activities. It is not difficult to reason that with the outcry of additional military programs and proposals now upon our contractors that their efforts are diversified and the once sharpness of focus is no longer attainable.
4. We have witnessed, however, that your meeting with Kelly has "re-fused" the Lockheed personnel concerning the importance and urgency of the OXCART Program. A similar stimulus is desperately

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needed with our other contractors. I propose that we arrange for a meeting of the key officials of the OXCART contractors at [redacted] in the very near future and have you reaffirm to them the position which OXCART holds among our national priorities. We would prepare for your discussion the various problem areas which we are now encountering in OXCART which could be called to the respective contractors' attention with an appropriate "shot in the arm" comment. A meeting such as this might go a long way in rejuvenating the OXCART Program and reestablishing it in the minds' of the contractors as a program demanding the highest priority.

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5. I would appreciate your reaction to this proposal and if you so agree, we will arrange for such a meeting within thirty days.

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[redacted]
JAMES A. CLEMISON, Jr.
Deputy Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

CONCUR:

SIGNED

14 MAY 1963

Date

JOHN PARADORE
D/TECH/OSA

Dist:

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C/PG/OSA: [redacted] (14 May 63)

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